



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

Office of Communications

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Falls Church City Manager Proposes Fiscal Year 2014 Budget *Fully Funds School; Calls for Six Cent Real Estate Tax Increase* *Proposes Storm Water Utility Funding*

Falls Church City Manager Wyatt Shields proposed a Fiscal Year 2014 (FY2014) budget of \$74.9 million, an increase of 8.2 percent over the previous fiscal year. The proposed Budget provides for a 3.9% increase in general government operating expenditures and a significant increase in expenditures to meet school, stormwater, and long term infrastructure and capital needs.

Shields submitted his proposed budget and the Five-Year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) to the City Council at its regular meeting on March 11. The Council will adopt a final budget on April 22 after three public hearings and two town hall meetings. The 2014 fiscal year runs from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

“With the actions taken by the City Council and management in response to financial challenges over the past several years,” said Shields, “the City is in a stronger financial position to address infrastructure and capital needs. I look forward to working with the City Council through a process of extensive review, questions, discussion, and sound decisions on the most cost effective ways to meet these long term needs of the City.”

The City Manager’s proposed FY2014 budget fully funds the School Board’s adopted budget request of \$33.7 million, an increase of 12.9 percent from FY2013; increases the real estate tax rate to \$1.33 per \$100 of assessed value. The proposed budget also provides for a new Storm Water Utility Fund with an annual operating budget of \$1.7 million and additional capital of \$1.8 million to address flooding, aging infrastructure, and Chesapeake Bay conservation mandates. The City Manager proposed a dedicated storm water fee based on impervious coverage, which would be applied to residential, commercial, and tax-exempt properties and cost approximately \$270 per year for the average homeowner.

The CIP contains significant projects in FY2014 and the subsequent four year planning period. As with last year’s CIP, major funding is provided for City public facility improvements, transportation improvements in commercial corridors, fire fighting apparatus, and park improvements. The CIP continues to restore funding to meet critical deferred infrastructure repair and replacement, and is proposed to be funded primarily through bonds and grants.

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City of Falls Church Mayor Nader Baroukh said, “Development of a sound budget to meet the strategic needs of the City is one of the most important tasks of the City Council. Over the next few weeks, the Council will thoroughly review the Manager's proposal and consider input from citizens. We encourage citizens to attend upcoming Town Hall meetings and public hearings and to email Council with suggestions and comments.”

The Manager recommended an advertised tax rate of \$1.41 to provide the City Council with flexibility to address certain items not funded in the Budget, such as FCC-TV, the local access cable channel, and flexibility on the question of funding stormwater improvements, if these costs are not met through the proposed new utility fund.

The complete text and charts included in the City Manager’s FY2014 proposed budget can be viewed at www.fallschurchva.gov/Budget and at the Mary Riley Styles Public Library (120 N. Virginia Ave.). The schedule of budget meetings and public hearings is also available on the website and in the budget document. The first of two Town Hall meetings is scheduled for Saturday, March 16 at 10 a.m. in the Community Center (223 Little Falls St.). Public comments may be sent via email to budget@fallschurchva.gov.

Budget Development Schedule

- Saturday, March 16, 10 a.m., Community Center
Town Hall Meeting #1
- Work Sessions, 7:30 p.m., Dogwood Room, City Hall
March 18, March 21, March 28, April 1, April 4, April 11, April 15, April 18 (if needed)
- Wednesday, March 27, 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall
Public Hearing #1, First Reading of Budget Ordinance and Tax Rate Ordinance
- Monday, April 8, 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall
Public Hearing #2, Second Reading of Budget Ordinance and Tax Rate Ordinance
- Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m., Community Center
Town Hall Meeting #2
- Monday, April 22, 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall
Public Hearing #3, Adoption of FY14 Operating Budget and CIP

Budget Resources

- Online Presentations and Documents
 - City and CIP: www.fallschurchva.gov/Budget and www.fallschurchva.gov/CIP
 - Schools’ Budget: www.fccps.org/Budget
- Video of public meetings: www.fallschurchva.gov/Webcasts
- Email budget suggestions and comments to budget@fallschurchva.gov, or speak at a Town Hall Meeting or regular City Council meeting including the Public Hearings.

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